

Surgical Patient Information

Joondalup Health Campus





Contents

Our commitment to you	Page 4
About your hospital stay	Page 4
Admission and fasting	Page 5
Day of admission	Page 5
Leaving hospital	Page 6

Compiled by the Perioperative Clinic at Joondalup Health Campus.

All information contained in this handout is current at the time of revision. If you have concerns about your health, you should seek advice from your general practitioner or health care provider. If you require urgent care you should go to the nearest Emergency Department.

Our commitment to you

Our dedicated team of professional staff is committed to providing patients with the highest standard of care. Our highest priority is to ensure each patient is treated with the utmost respect and dignity, from pre-admission to discharge.

About your hospital stay

Clerical pre-admission

Pre-admission is an important part of your hospital care. To ensure we can confirm your admission, financial and other arrangements, we ask that you:

- 1. Fill in the online admission form, or complete the admission form that you would have received from your doctor, as soon as possible and send it back to the hospital. Please ensure the following information is included:
 - next of kin details
 - Medicare card number
 - funding details e.g. DVA, private health insurance, work-cover or self funding
 - benefit details e.g. pharmacy benefit card or pension card

2. If you have private health cover, please contact your health fund prior to admission to check for any excess or waiting periods. We know that health and billing charges can be difficult to understand and we are happy to assist you in any way we can, however we also advise that you seek clarification from your doctor and health fund.

You may be contacted by telephone prior to your date of admission by our perioperative nurse, where a brief medical history will be taken and admission and discharge details will be discussed. Please take this opportunity to discuss any concerns regarding your admission.

Your **Doctor** will notify the hospital of the date of your procedure/operation and inform you of your date and time of admission. Your doctor will also explain your procedure or operation and complete the consent form with you.

Perioperative Clinic - SUITE 207: located in the Specialist Medical Centre - enter through the glass doors (near Pause Café) and take lift to 2nd floor.

You may be requested to attend an appointment at the Perioperative Clinic. At this appointment you will be seen by a nurse who will speak to you about your hospital stay, ensure your paperwork is complete, advise what to bring to hospital and address any concerns you may have. In addition, you will be reviewed by an anaesthetist. Please bring a list of current medications you are taking, including the doses to show the anaesthetist.

Discharge planning

Discharge planning will also be addressed at your pre-admission appointment. You will need to consider the following:

- Who will take you home from hospital?
- Who will care for you at home on discharge?

You are welcome to bring a relative or friend to this clinic appointment.

Admission and fasting

Your doctor will inform you of your admission and fasting time.

Approximately 48 hours prior to your scheduled admission, hospital admission staff will contact you and confirm your specific admission and fasting time.

FASTING means NOTHING to eat or drink and no chewing gum for a specific time prior to your operation.

Take your regular medications as per your doctor's instructions.

Medications may be taken with a sip of water even if you are fasting. Please discuss any queries you may have regarding your medications with your surgeon/anaesthetist/GP.

If you have any queries regarding fasting/admission details please call our Admissions Office between 7am and 9.30pm on 9400 9422.

Day of admission

Public patients: please report to the public reception in the main foyer of the public hospital.

Private patients: please report to the private reception located on the first floor of the Specialist Medical Centre.

Please bring with you to hospital anything relevant to your admission including:

- Doctor's admission letter
- Any paperwork relating to your hospital stay not already returned to the hospital
- Any letter you have received from your anaesthetist
- PATS forms for country patients if applicable
- Medicare card
- Health fund details if applicable
- Pension health benefits card if applicable
- Pharmaceutical card if applicable
- Any medications you are currently taking
- Relevant X-rays/scans or test results
- Any special equipment you may require e.g. CPAP for sleep apnoea
- Toiletries
- · Night attire
- Shoes/slippers that fit you well with a non slip sole.

Please DO NOT bring any valuables or large amounts of cash to JHC as our policy stipulates that the hospital does not take any responsibility for personal belongings during your stay. Please shower at home prior to your hospital admission, with the pre-op wash if you have been provided with it. Wear clean clothes that are comfortable and easy to remove.

DO NOT eat or drink anything after midnight for morning surgery.

DO NOT eat or drink anything after 7am for afternoon surgery - a light breakfast prior to 7am is acceptable i.e. tea and toast

* Please note fasting instructions for young children or babies may differ from above – follow the instructions given by your anaesthetist/surgeon.

DO NOT wear jewellery, make up or nail polish.

Both day procedure and overnight stay patients will go to the ward where your admission will be completed. All necessary preparation will be attended to and you will be reviewed by the surgical team and anaesthetist prior to your operation.

Whilst every effort is made to ensure your surgery proceeds as scheduled, in some cases there may be a delay due to unforeseen circumstances. We will keep you informed of any delays and advise that you bring a book or magazine to read prior to your surgery.

DAY PROCEDURE patients must be able to provide the nursing staff with the contact name and phone number of the adult person responsible for collecting you on discharge. It is very important that you have an adult to stay with you overnight.

IMPORTANT: You cannot drive for 24 hours following a general anaesthetic.

Leaving hospital

On the day that you leave the hospital we ask that you vacate your room by 10am so we can prepare your room for the next patient.

Should there be any delay in discharge we may require you to wait in the discharge lounge, which is conveniently located on the ground floor near the main hospital entrance. Whilst in the discharge lounge, you will continue to be cared for by nursing staff until your departure.

Please check with the nurse before leaving the ward.

CHECK LIST

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- Have all your x-rays been returned to you? They are your responsibility and may be required for future treatment.
- Do you have all your instructions regarding your wound care?
- Have Acute Home Care Service/Silver Chain visits been arranged if required?
- Do you need to arrange a follow up appointment with your surgeon or GP?
- Do you need a medical certificate for your employer?
- Do you have all medications/scripts required?
- Do you have any rehabilitation instructions? These will be supplied by your nurse and therapists.
- Do you require any equipment for discharge as identified by your therapists/surgeon?

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